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THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL, URBAN
AND STATE AFFAIRS

SENATOR
GERALD VAN WOERKOM
CHAIRMAN

Minutes of the Senate Local, Urban & State Affairs Committee
Tuesday, April 21, 2009
3:00 p.m.
Room 110 of the Farnum Building

Chairman Van Woerkom called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Members present: Senators Van Woerkom, Birkholz, Gleason and Basham.

Senator Birkholz motioned to approve the minutes from March 3, 2009 and the motion was supported by Senator Gleason. The minutes from March 3, 2009 were approved.

Chairman Van Woerkom invited Rep. Barnett to testify on House Bill 4479. Rep. Barnett said that the bill offered flexibility and clarity to the time when county board of commissioners may hold their apportionment meetings.

Sen. Birkholz thanked Rep. Barnett for bringing the bill before the committee.

Chairman Van Woerkom indicated that a substitute would be offered clarifying a deadline of October 31.

Chairman Van Woerkom took a vote on adoption of S-1 HB 4479. The motion was granted from Senator Birkholz, with support from Senator Gleason. The vote to adopt S-1 HB 4479 passed unanimously.

Chairman Van Woerkom read the names of those who did not wish to speak on HB 4479, but wished to have their opinion stated.

Those who supported HB 4479 were:

- Tom Hickson, Michigan Association of Counties.

Those who were neutral on HB 4479 were:

- Larry Steckelberg, Michigan Department of Treasury.

Chairman Van Woerkom introduced and summarized Senate Bill 430: This bill would allow new construction to proceed without local airport zoning permits if the FAA and MDOT have given approval and the local airport zoning agency has failed to issue or deny a permit within 90 days of application.

Sen. Basham spoke of having the state's largest airport in his district and of his unfamiliarity with the bill at this point.

Chairman Van Woerkom invited Jon Krecher, representing Howard and Howard Attorneys with a large amount of alternative energy clients, to testify on the bill. He spoke of the need to speed up

the process of obtaining local permits given the recent passage of renewable energy requirements whose implementation will require wind turbines to be built. Many developers are submitting applications to local airport zoning boards that no longer effectively function, placing financing at risk.

Andy Shor, representing the Michigan Municipal League, testified that MML does not have an official position at this time but had two concerns that he would continue to pursue as necessary.

Chairman Van Woerkom read the names of those who did not wish to speak on SB 430, but wished to have their opinion stated.

Those who were neutral on SB 430 were:

- Mark Polsdofer, Michigan Department of Transportation.

Senator Birkholz moved to report S-1 HB 4479 with support from Senator Senator Gleason. S-1 HB 4479 passed favorably, 4-0. Senator Birkholz motioned to report out S-1 HB 4479 with immediate effect with support from Senator Gleason. S-1 HB 4479 was reported favorably, 4-0, with immediate effect.

Senator Gleason moved to report SB 430 with support from Senator Senator Birkholz. SB 430 passed favorably, 3-0, with Senator Basham passing. Senator Birkholz motioned to report out SB 430 with immediate effect with support from Senator Gleason. SB 430 was reported favorably, 3-0, with immediate effect.

Senator Birkholz motioned for adjournment with no objection.

Chairman Van Woerkom adjourned the committee at 3:35 p.m.